

content comprising 20-100% by weight of at least one water-insoluble ester of a mono-, di, tri- or tetrahydric alcohol with a molecular weight not exceeding 500 and a branched or straight chain fatty acid with between 12 and 30 carbon atoms,

- c. stretching the filaments,
- d. applying to the stretched filaments a second spin finish with an active ingredient content comprising 20-100% by weight of at least one water-insoluble ester of a mono-, di-, tri- or tetrahydric alcohol with a molecular weight not exceeding 500 and a branched or straight chain fatty acid with between 12 and 30 carbon atoms,
- e. optionally, crimping the filaments,
- f. applying, during the spinning stage, the stretching stage or after crimping, an antistatic agent,
- g. drying the filaments, and
- h. for the production of fibres, cutting the filaments to obtain staple fibres.--

--27. A method according to claim 26, wherein the fibres or filaments are cardable staple fibres.--

--28. A method according to claim 26, wherein the polyolefin-containing material

is polypropylene, polyethylene or a copolymer thereof.--

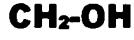
--29. A method according to claim 26, wherein the melt spinning is performed so that the melt flow rate of the spun filaments is between 1.5 and 7 times the initial MFR of the polyolefin-containing material before spinning as measured according to ISO 1133.--

--30. A method according to claim 26, wherein the active ingredient content of the first and/or second spin finish comprises up to 80% by weight of a mineral oil and up to 10% by weight of an ethoxylated alcohol.--

--31. A method according to claim 26, wherein the water-insoluble ester is the reaction product of a polyol having the formula:



or



in which R is an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; m is 0 to 3 and n is 0 to 4; and a branched or straight chain fatty acid having between 12 and 30 carbon atoms.--

--32. A method according to claim 31, wherein the alcohol is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerol, neopentyl glycol, trimethylolethane and trimethylolpropane.--

--33. A method according to claim 31, wherein the ester is a monoester, a diester or a polyester.--

--34. A method according to claim 26, wherein the first and/or second spin finish comprises at least one water-insoluble ester of glycerol and at least one saturated or unsaturated fatty acid residue having 12-24 carbon atoms.--

--35. A method according to claim 26, wherein the first and/or second spin finish comprises at least one water-insoluble ester in the form of a monoester of a fatty acid having 14-18 carbon atoms and a branched chain alcohol.--

--36. A method according to claim 26, wherein the first and/or second spin finish comprises at least one water-insoluble ester of glycerol and at least one saturated or unsaturated fatty acid residue having 12-24 carbon atoms and at least one water-insoluble ester of neopentyl glycol and at least fatty acid residue having 12-24 carbon atoms.--

--37. A method according to claim 26, wherein the antistatic agent is applied after crimping.--

b --38. A method according to claim 26, wherein the antistatic agent is anionic or nonionic.--

--39. A method according to claim 26, wherein the antistatic agent has the formula $R^1R^2O_3PO \cdot M^+$, where R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of C_2-C_{30} alkyl and polyether, and M^+ is an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion or a proton.--

--40. A method according to claim 26, wherein the antistatic agent has the formula $R^1R^2R^3O_3PO$, where R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, C_2-C_{30} alkyl and polyether.--

--41. A method according to claim 26, wherein the first and/or second spin finish comprises 0.1-2% by weight (active ingredient content, based on the total active ingredient content) of a wetting agent.--

--42. A method according to claim 26, wherein the first and/or second spin finish comprises 0.5-15% by weight (active ingredient content, based on the total active ingredient content) of a friction reducing additive comprising a wax or wax mixture and/or a polydiorganosiloxane.--

--43. A polyolefin-containing fibre produced according to the method of claim 26.

*SW
D1*
--44. A polyolefin-containing fibre carrying at its surface 0.01-1.0% by weight of the fibre of at least one water-insoluble ester of a mono-, di, tri- or tetrahydric alcohol with a molecular weight not exceeding 500 and a branched or straight chain fatty acid with between 12 and 30 carbon atoms.--

C
--45. A method for producing a nonwoven material, the method comprising providing a web of fibres according to claim 43 and bonding the web to produce the nonwoven material.--

B
--46. A method for producing a nonwoven material, the method comprising providing a web of fibres according to claim 44 and bonding the web to produce the nonwoven material.--

C
--47. A nonwoven material comprising fibres according to claim 43.--

--48. A nonwoven material comprising fibres according to claim 44.--

--49. A composite material comprising a nonwoven material according to claim 47, wherein said nonwoven material is:

a. laminated to a film layer or otherwise provided with a film coating; or
b. bonded to or otherwise provided with a spunbonded layer or a layer of
meltblown fibres.--

--50. A composite material comprising a nonwoven material according to claim 48, wherein said nonwoven material is:

a. laminated to a film layer or otherwise provided with a film coating; or
b. bonded to or otherwise provided with a spunbonded layer or a layer of
meltblown fibres.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. New claim 26-50 have been added.

Upon entry of the accompanying amendment, claims 26-50 will be pending in the present application. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in order to make it clear which claims are pending before the U.S.P.T.O.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.